

Meteor-Heraut

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Quick Read

In General

Future leaders meet

Future Business Leaders of America host a conference March 23-25 at Edelweiss Hotel in Garmisch, Germany. Students ages 14-18 from American schools in Europe test business knowledge and skills. Info: Bertha Manning, Ramstein High School, DSN 480-6951, or 49 6371 476-6951, or Bertha_Manning@eu.dodea.edu

Belgium

History Month events set

February is African-American History Month and celebration events in the SHAPE and Chièvres communities include — *SHAPE Jazz Band performs* Feb. 18, 2 p.m., at SHAPE Building 101 in PIO Auditorium. Info: Sgt. 1st Class Denise Guidry, DSN 423-3805. *Trip to Royal Museum of Central Africa, Brussels*, Feb. 22, time and departure location TBA. Info: Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Jessen, DSN 361-5235. *SHAPE Jazz Band performs* Feb. 25, 3 p.m., in Building 30 auditorium, Daumerie Caserne. Info: Kenneth Hines, DSN 361-5281. *Talent show*, Feb. 26, 6 p.m., at SHAPE IC Club. Info: Sgt. 1st Class Denise Guidry, DSN 423-3805.

How to be 'in'

Luxembourg Gate at SHAPE reopens Feb. 14 and operates Monday-Thursday, 7:45-9 a.m., for in-bound traffic only; and 3:30-6 p.m., for out-bound traffic only. Friday hours are 7:45-9 a.m., for in-bound traffic; and 3:15-6 p.m., for out-bound traffic. Ottawa Gate is open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

AFAP news for Brussels

Army Family Action Plan conference *issue submission deadline* for the NSN/Brussels community is Feb. 15. Blue drop-off boxes are all around the community, or take your issue to ACS, Building 4, top floor. *AFAP delegate training* is March 1, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at ACS, Building 4, top floor conference room. Registration is required. Info: DSN 368-9643.

Improve distance vision

Use free Webcams to communicate with your family in case of deployment, TDY, PSC, hospitalization, etc., at ASC, Building 4, top floor, NATO Support Activity, Brussels. Appointments: DSN 368-9783.

Netherlands and Germany

Relationship workshop set

Tri-Border Region Integrated Delivery System has a relationship enhancement workshop March 12, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Geilenkirchen Chapel. Pre-registration is required. Child care available by appointment. Registration: 49 245 199-3378.



Adding on to military communities

PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Luigi Russo, an employee of Lixon Construction, trims a paving brick Feb. 2 for the bus stop in front of the new barracks building nearing completion on Chièvres Air Base. The new barracks will

have 60 units for 120 enlisted personnel, each unit sharing a common kitchenette and bath. There will also be eight apartments for NCOs. The footprint of the building is 2,100 square meters.

By Rick Haverinen

You probably wouldn't want to buy four new tires for a car you're going to sell because the return you'd get wouldn't be worth your expense. People tend to invest in what they want to keep around for awhile.

In the current climate of drawdown and reorganization within the U.S. Dept. of Defense, one barometer of a military community's longevity might be the government's commitment to keep adding more large things you can not only see, but which also cost a pile of money.

"The big (construction) projects show we're an enduring installation," said Lt. Col. George Shepard, Director of Public Works, 80th Area Support Group.

The most noticeable evidence of that situation is the looming enlisted barracks nearing completion on Chièvres Air Base.

"That's our highlight building," Shepard said, "a military construction project that two years ago was just an idea. The interior is the 'one-plus-one' standard, meaning you have a set of two people sharing one module. They share a common kitchenette and bathroom. We have 60 modules, meaning we can house up to 120 Soldiers, and then there are eight NCO suites that each hold one NCO."

Shepard said a precise number of occupants is elusive because when an enlisted person is promoted to E-5, he or she is allowed to live in both halves of one of the double units alone. However the building is occupied at any time, enlisted people shall be enjoying a Euro 11.4 million taxpayer commitment to continued U.S. military presence in Belgium.

Funding is approved for another set of U.S. Soldier barracks for the SHAPE compound, and a third set is proposed for Brunssum, the Netherlands, in the footprint of the 254th Base Support Bn.

U.S. Army funding built the new child de-

velopment center on SHAPE and a similar project is being fast-tracked for Brunssum, but the dollars are not yet secured.

"NATO Support Activity in Brussels is in the process of putting together a huge proposal that will in the future consolidate all of the NSA activities in one place near the Brussels American School, if they can purchase farmland," Shepard said. "At the same time we hope to see a new Army fitness center out there around fiscal year 2008-2009.

It's high priority to give them a good gym and it looks like we'll have to sacrifice a couple ball fields for it. DoDDS has indicated they want to chip in some money improve the school's gym and the art and music rooms in Brussels."

The emphasis on force protection is sending money to the 80th ASG to improve physical security. Perimeter lighting and a security camera system for Chièvres Air Base and Daumerie Caserne are nearing completion and infrastructure for signal systems for Chièvres and Schinnen is about complete.

"We will have a complete new commissary," said Nico Vogelpoel, Deputy Director of Public Works, 254th BSB, "The only thing that is old is the exterior walls. Everything will be new inside, with a bigger sales area. For the community as well as the customers, it is a great improvement, and (Defense Commissary Agency) spent \$3.2 million for it."

The 254th BSB will spend an estimated \$400,000 for parking and other exterior work to enhance physical security. Similar work is planned for the commercial area of Chièvres Air Base.

Physical security concerns and accompanying funding have already rebuilt access gates at Chièvres Air Base and the Emma Mine Complex in Schinnen. Other gate projects are now

well underway for the air base rear entrance and across the street at Daumerie Caserne.

Having more enlisted people living in the new Chièvres barracks means other works must be upgraded. Those include a building addition to make a community club for meal service, a separate new gym, and making the temporary "holiday" post office a permanent facility.

"We're getting a new 95-room hotel, by the PXtra on Chièvres Air Base," Shepard said. "The Maisières Hotel lease runs out the summer of 2007, so we need a new hotel and we need to be digging pretty soon."

Like Schinnen, Chièvres Air Base may get a better place to buy groceries.

"We're fighting for a commissary," Shepard said. "We want to connect it to the PX, and put a little mall in between. That could be exciting. That's a fiscal year 2008 project so we could be shopping in there in 2010."



Vogelpoel



Shepard



PHOTO: Sylvia Bowron

René Pijpers removes metal brackets that are no longer needed outside the commissary building now being refurbished at 254th Base Support Bn. in Schinnen, the Netherlands.



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
80th ASG Commander

This edition, I would like to reflect on the NATO Headquarters which our 80th ASG communities in Schinnen, Brussels, and Chièvres support. We need to understand their accomplishments and direction. The 80th ASG is an

Nowowiejski Notes

organization which supports joint and alliance communities within NATO. We do so in both The Netherlands and Belgium, with host nation work forces in both countries who have worked in support of these NATO headquarters for many years. Let's review some recent developments.

First, there is the NATO headquarters itself in Brussels. This headquarters is supported by the 80th ASG NATO Support Activity. You can find more information about NATO headquarters at <http://www.nato.int/>. Since the Prague Summit in 1999, NATO has been fundamentally changing. Last year, meeting in Istanbul on 28 and 29 June, NATO Heads of State and Government expanded the Alliance's presence in Afghanistan, agreed to assist Iraq with training, launched a new partnership initiative and adopted measures to improve NATO's operational capabilities. There was a working lunch of the North Atlantic Council at the level of Foreign Ministers in Brussels this week. Perhaps you read about the visit of the new Secretary of State for the United States in the Stars and Stripes this week. Later this month, a summit meeting of the North Atlantic Council will be held at NATO Headquarters, on Tuesday, 22 February. All of these NATO meetings will figure prominently in the press, and you might think of our NATO Support Activity in Brussels when you read the articles.

Subordinate to NATO Headquarters are two major commands - Allied Command Transformation, located at Nor-

folk, Va.; and Allied Command Operations, headquartered at SHAPE. You can find out more about SHAPE at <http://www.shape.nato.int/>. The 80th Area Support Group headquarters and the U.S. Army Garrison Chièvres are both served by the same staff at Daumerie Caserne, Belgium. The USAG Chièvres supports SHAPE. From 1 to 3 February, NATO commanders gathered in Norway for exercise Allied Reach 05, which dealt with planning, operational and capability issues related to a deployment of the NATO Response Force. During the exercise, which was held at NATO's Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, the participants were faced with a simulated scenario that examined how the Response Force (NRF) could be used in a future crisis or conflict. The NRF is one of the most significant developments in NATO history under the leadership of the SACEUR and the SHAPE staff.

Our 254th Base Support Battalion at Schinnen, The Netherlands, supports Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum. The recent successful elections in Afghanistan took place under the watchful eye of the International Security Assistance Force reporting directly to JFC Brunssum. The 254th BSB provides a quality American community in support of JFC Brunssum. You can find out more at <http://www.jfcbs.nato.int/>. All of our 80th ASG communities are making significant garrison contributions to these NATO success stories. I encourage you to find out more from the web sites listed in this article.

Winter driving proves especially hazardous

Bell Sends #13-05
24 January 2005

SAFETY ALERT
Soldier Killed in Winter Car Crash

1. Last Tuesday was ugly in Germany. Snow, freezing rain, slush, and ice created some of the worst driving conditions we have seen so far this winter. These conditions contributed to many vehicle crashes that day, one of which claimed the life of a USAREUR Soldier. He was killed when he lost control of his vehicle and crossed the center line into the path of an oncoming 40-ton truck. At the time, road conditions were Amber.
2. "Black ice" may have been a factor in this crash. Black ice is a thin, extremely slick layer of ice on the road. Because it is so thin, it is essentially invisible and looks as black as the road. It also tends to make the road look wet instead of icy. Drivers who hit a patch of black ice may unexpectedly be unable to brake or steer their vehicle and suddenly find themselves in danger of skidding out of control.
3. Over the last several years, many USAREUR personnel have been injured or

killed in car crashes during winter. Many of these crashes could have been prevented if the drivers had assessed the risks involved with their travel and modified their plans and behavior accordingly. We must take steps to prevent these tragedies.

- I ask all of you to reaffirm your commitment to safety by reviewing and ensuring you understand the hazards associated with winter driving. These hazards are explained in our Winter Safety Campaign (encl 4, tab C), which is available on the USAREUR homepage. Following the guidance in the Winter Safety Campaign will help us avoid injuries and loss of life this winter.

- BSB commanders are responsible for determining and announcing road conditions for their geographic areas of responsibility. Unit commanders are responsible for assessing the risks associated with those road conditions and assigning missions accordingly by using sound risk-management tech-

niques. Commanders must ensure that their personnel do not take unnecessary risks, whether they are driving an Army motor vehicle or a privately owned vehicle, especially during bad weather. USAREUR



Gen. B. B. Bell

Regulation 385-55, appendix I, defines road conditions for the Army in Europe. Commanders who are not familiar with these conditions and the procedures for responding to them need to review the regulation.

- Leaders and supervisors must identify personnel in their unit who lack winter-driving experience and do whatever it takes to prepare them for the risks of the road. Sponsors must do the same thing with their family members. Leaders, supervisors, and sponsors who do not have experience in winter driving must ask for guidance.

- Leaders and supervisors must also talk with subordinates about their personal appointments or plans, and help them change their appointments or modify their plans if the

risks involved are too great. These discussions are not an invasion of privacy, they are a show of respect and commitment to the well-being of the individual and to mission readiness.

- Commanders who decide to release their personnel early based on worsening weather conditions must take time to remind them of the dangers they will face on their way home. These individuals need to understand the dangers of winter driving when the weather is bad. Hearing about it in a routine safety briefing is not good enough.

4. Ensure that this safety alert is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. Commitment to safety and knowledge of winter-driving techniques will get us safely through the winter, fully mission capable, and ready to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Commander urges safety for Presidents Day weekend

Bell Sends #14-05
1 February 2005

Presidents Day Holiday Weekend Safety

1. On 21 February we will pay tribute to the dedicated Americans who have served as President of our great Nation and Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces. The Presidents we honor on Presidents Day have served in turbulent times and all faced many challenges.
2. For our deployed warriors, I want to thank each of you for your dedication and courage in our Global War on Terrorism. For those of you who are not deployed, to give you a headstart this holiday weekend I have designated 18 February as a USAREUR training holiday. This will be the last long weekend of winter, and I hope you take advantage of it by spending time with your family and friends.
3. If you plan to travel, remember that roads will likely be crowded. Heavy traffic is more than just a nuisance; it increases our exposure to the dangers of other travelers who may be stressed or tired. You can help avoid getting stuck in traffic or breaking down on autobahns by carefully planning your trip. This includes checking your vehicle to ensure everything is in order before you set out. This also includes making sure you know the rules of the road and stick to them.

4. When reviewing the rules of the road, pay special attention to those concerning what to do if you are involved in a crash or your vehicle breaks down. A member of our Army team was recently struck by a vehicle on the autobahn after getting out of his own vehicle. He had been involved in a minor accident and had pulled over to inspect his car. Although we cannot control the behavior of other drivers, we can reduce the chances of getting hurt or killed in situations like these by doing the following:

- Turn on the vehicle's emergency flashers and move the vehicle away from the traffic lane.
- Take out the warning triangle, open it fully, and place it about 100 meters behind the vehicle (200 meters if on the autobahn) where it can be easily seen by drivers of oncoming vehicles.
- Stay off the road, and do not walk or run across the autobahn.
- Call for help using a cell phone or the nearest emergency telephone (as indicated by the arrows on roadside reflector posts).
- Stay out of the vehicle. Stand behind the guardrail (if there is one), remain alert, and wait for help to arrive.

5. Soldiers: By now you know that I expect you to have an open and honest conversation with your first-line NCO about your plans

before a holiday weekend. I expect a verbal contract between you and your leaders. Failing to do this is selfish. Not telling your first-line NCO your plans not only puts yourself in jeopardy, it jeopardizes the lives of your family members and friends. Do not let yourself become a weekend statistic. You are a vital member of the USAREUR team, and your fellow Soldiers depend on you.

6. Leaders: If a Soldier's plan must be revised because of safety concerns, I expect you to look that Soldier in the eye and say so. Saying "no" or providing guidance for alternative travels schedules to a Soldier whose plan for the weekend is too risky is a positive act of concern for the well-being of that Soldier. It also teaches the Soldier to identify, assess, and mitigate risks.
7. I am convinced that your personal involvement and concern for your Soldiers will make a difference over the Presidents Day weekend, and ultimately save lives. Make it happen! Doing so will help ensure that we continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

254th BSB Tri-border News

254th BSB Local Calendar

African American History Month Celebration

Celebrate Black History Month at the Schinnen Sport Center, Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

There is a performance by the Bi-Okoto African Dance and Drum group, a cultural display of Black Art, paintings, films, books, and a soul food tasting.



African American History Month Celebration Dinner and Dance is Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. The dance, presented by the Benjamin F. Luke Lodge No. 127, offers an open food buffet at 8:30 p.m.

Special presentations will follow dinner, and dancing begins at 9:30 p.m.

For location and ticket information call: *AFNORTH* – Mr. Carlos Ramos at 0031 (0)64 609-7159; *Schinnen* – Mr. Harold Anderson at 0031 (0)46 443-7555; *Geilenkirchen* – Mr. Benjamin Luke at 0031 0049 2452 1860.

Volunteers recognized

Army Community Services holds its Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Apr. 19, 6 p.m. Info: Teri Ryan at DSN 360-7451 or 0031 (0)46-443-7451.

Tax office open

The Netherlands Law Center, Tax Assistance Office is open and tax appointments can be scheduled. To schedule an appointment, or for more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Alfred Cornelius, Senior Paralegal, Netherlands Law Center, at DSN 364-6204 or 0031 (0)45 563-6204. If schedule permits, walk-in clients will be seen.

'Love and Logic' Course

Army Community Services (ACS) holds a couples communication course, "Love and Logic Feb. 12, and Feb. 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the ACS conference room. Attendees learn new techniques and skills to enhance and promote better communication. Call 0031 (0)46 443-7367.

Housekeeping a key to fire prevention

Housekeeping is a major factor in fire prevention. Good housekeeping practices, both indoors and outdoors, reduces the danger of fire.

In other words keep your area tidy and clean, dispose of trash regularly. "A place



for everything and everything in its place", is a good housekeeping rule to prevent fires.

For more information contact Rob Walraven, Directorate of Public Works, Fire Chief, at DSN 360-7320 or 0031 (0)46 443-7230.

SATO Travel - Book official travel early: Personnel performing official travel such as COT/RAT leave, TDY, PCS this summer, are urged to book flights even if you do not have orders.

Those who expect to PCS with pets, need to provide the size and weight of the kennel including the pet, and the age, gender and breed of your pet.

The SATO office has new summer brochures and offers package deals with departure to Amsterdam, Brussels, Düsseldorf and Maastricht. Also offered are self-drive packages such as Euro-Disney, City-trips and Cruises. Info: visit the SATO office or call DSN 360-7570.



Sort Center open Saturdays

The 254th Base Support Battalion SORT Center is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Info: DSN 360-7283 or 0031 (0)46-443-7283. The SORT Center is located on Queen Juliana Street, Normal hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 9-10 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., and now on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1.30-4 p.m.

Retirees authorized APO mail facilities

Military retirees residing in The Netherlands are authorized the use of APO mail facilities called R-Box. For additional information please call commercial 046-443-7279. You may also contact Mr. Ron Holland, your Retirement Services Officer at 046-443-7320. Remember, the use of APO mail services is only for United States military retirees who are permanent residents in The Netherlands.

Heerlen Hospital labor/delivery tour

The Army Community Services (ACS)

New Parents Education and Support Program, host a tour of the Labor and Delivery department of the Heerlen Hospital Mar. 7, 12:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided from ACS, bldg 39. Registration is required and the deadline is Feb. 22. For more information call DSN 360-7395 or 0031 (0)46 443-7395.



Deadline nears for Scholarships for Military Children program

Deadline for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 16, and all applications **must** be delivered to the Schinnen commissary by the close of business that day.

Copies of the application are available at the commissary or can be downloaded through a link on the front page of <http://www.commissaries.com> or downloaded directly from <http://www.militaryscholar.org> and filled out by hand or on the computer.

Alliance Players present: "Love Letters," Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 13-14, 6:30 p.m., at Brit Hall (between GK and JFC). Info and tickets: DSN 364-2293.

Coffee Hour for families of deployed soldiers is Feb. 23, 10 a.m.-noon, at ACS Conference Room.

Newcomers orientation briefing is Feb. 25, 8:45 a.m.-3.30 p.m., Schinnen, ACS, Bldg. 39. Info: DSN 360-7500.

Tri-Border Town Hall meeting will be held Feb. 26, 1-2 p.m., Schinnen Sports Center, Info: DSN 360-7500.

Arts and Crafts Festival, Feb. 27, 2-6 p.m., JFC Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. H 607. Info: DSN 364-2454.

Volunteer Advisory Council, will meet March 1, 10 a.m., Schinnen ACS, Bldg. 39, DSN 360-7500.

Pre-Retirement Briefing will be held March 4, 9-10 a.m., ACS, Resource Center, Bldg. 39, DSN 360-7500.

Army Career and Alumni Program, March 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Treebeek Education Center. Pre-registration required: DSN 360-7269.

Conserve energy, hit the switch

Energy conservation is an important issue within our community. To help cut costs, everyone must do their utmost to reduce our energy consumption. Here are some things that can help you save energy in the office. Reduce lighting where possible. Turn off lights in unoccupied areas. Turn off signage and other lights not necessary for security and safety reasons. Reduce the hours your equipment is left running unnecessarily. PCs, monitors, printers, copiers and scanners must be fully turned off at night and over weekends unless otherwise instructed. If you leave your work area to attend a meeting, go to lunch, have a smoke, etc. take the time to turn off the lights and pc monitors before leaving. It's worthwhile to switch off the lights in your office if you expect to be gone five minutes or more. **Hit the switch** and save energy! If you leave your office or work area for more than four hours, turning off the computer will contribute to the reduction of energy consumption. (Ref. 254th BSB Schinnen Command Policy Letter 23, Energy Conservation)

For information call Maurice Kösters, at the Energy Conservation Office, at DSN 360-7520.



Leisure Activities by Rita Hoefnagels

Feb. 11: *Urk in Winter*. It will seem like time has stopped at the former island Urk (NL). Old customs and traditions are revived this day when wooden shoe makers, basket weavers and other old craftsmen show their expertise at the Crafts Market. Many of the attractions and things to do will bring you back to yesteryears. Information: 0031-(0)527-684040 (Tourist Office Urk).

Feb. 11-20: The largest car show in The Netherlands, *AutoRAI*, with many shows and all kinds of gorgeous cars can be found at RAI in Amsterdam (NL). Open weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and weekends, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry on weekdays Euro 14.50, weekends Euro 16.50.

Feb. 12-13: *International Old-timers and Classic Cars Fair* at Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). Open both days 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 8; children Euro 5. Information: 0031-(0)73-5233300.

Carp at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL). This fair, with carp, carp and more carp, is the largest in Europe. Open: Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Entry: Euro 8; children 10 and younger no entrance fee. Information: 0031-(0)38-4211843.

Thru Feb. 13: *Nicholas & Alexandra Exhibition* at Hermitage, Nieuwe Herengracht 14 in Amsterdam (NL). The exhibition tells the story of the last Tsar of Russia and his family by means of numerous personal belongings, pictures, and more. Entry: Euro 6. Information: 0031-(0)20-5308751.

Tuinvaria at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL), a large garden fair where one will find everything to make your garden enjoyable. Information: 0031-(0)38-4211843.

Feb. 13: *Jazz Concert* at Theater aan het Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 12.50. Information/reservations: 0031-(0)43-3505555.

Feb. 16-20: *Garden Idea* at Brabanthallen in Den Bosch (NL). A fair for garden enthusiasts, where one will find a lot inspiration for one's garden as well as find lots of activities all to do with gardens and gardening. Entry: Euro 12; children Euro 5. Information: 0031-(0)73-6293911.

Feb. 17-20: *"Tuin & Sfeer."* At this fair one will find the newest trends for garden and gardening at Martiniplaza in Groningen (NL). Entry: Euro 6. Information: 0031-(0)528-227811.

Feb. 19: *International "Vogeltjesmarkt" (Bird Market)*. The market, which is actually the largest in Europe, takes place at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL). Entry: Euro 4. Open: 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 0031-(0)38-4211843.

Feb. 24-27: *Antiqui Breda*. About 45 antique and art dealers present their antique and art collection in the beautiful surroundings of the "Grote Kerk" (Large Church) in the center of Breda (NL). Entry: Euro 10. Information: 0031-(0)76-5032797.

Feb. 25-28: *Tuinexpo Salland*. This large regional garden fair takes place in Luttenberg (NL) near the town of Raalte (NL). Information: 0031-(0)572-301763.

Thru Sept. 4: *Mummies*, an exhibition at Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (NL). Entry: Euro 6; children (6-17) Euro 5.50. Information: www.rmo.nl.



254th BSB Tri-border News

ACS offers deployment and mobilization readiness



Photos by Staff Sgt. Joe Bloomquist

SGT. Edith Sedli, D.A.R.E. Officer, Provost Marshal Office, 254th BSB lends a helping hand with the ACS, Mobilization and Deployment Program, Hearts Apart. Here the children are making Valentines for their parent who is currently down range.

Story by Sylvia Bowron

Deployment can be an emotional and stressful time for soldiers and family members alike. The 254th Base Support Battalion (BSB) Army Community Services (ACS) Deployment Readiness and Mobilization Program realize this and are ready and equipped to help.

Soldiers, married or single, and civilian employees preparing to deploy, or in the middle of mobilization, will need as much information as possible about what needs to be done.

Katrina Yunt, ACS Deployment and Mobilization Program Coordinator, is excited about the opportunity to help Soldiers and their families prepare for what lies ahead.

"There are many things that need to be addressed before a Soldier or civilian leave their family behind," said Yunt. "We offer a check list that will help them plan, prepare, and gather information for a successful deployment. We want to ensure that those who are deploying have a plan in place to care for their loved ones during their absence."

"Everyone involved, families and single personnel alike, must prepare for events that could happen while they are gone. Military personnel have a unit checklist of items that need to be accomplished before deploy-

ment. This check list includes items such as ID cards, DOG tags, emergency record card, shot records, locator cards etc," Yunt said.

"Some things do get overlooked and that is what the Deployment Readiness and Mobilization Program is for," said Yunt. "Making sure that TRICARE, Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) or their Family Member Dental Plan (FMDP) is updated and important paperwork is easily accessible. Bill payment information such as who they are, when to pay, where and how should be available as well. Insurance forms, policy numbers, the title for the car and information on how to register the car and where to get gas rations are just a few things that need to be addressed," said Yunt.

The office is relatively new here and is gearing up to offer numerous services to the U.S. military members, civilians and their families during all phases of deployment.

"We now offer video teleconferencing (VTC) via video-phones and web-cams so families can connect with their deployed loved ones for up to 30 minutes per family. Services are free and available by appointment only," continued Yunt. "There are four workstations used for video e-mail messaging with spouses down range and

there is unlimited usage during operating hours," she said. This service is available during working hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the ACS staff is willing to accommodate spouses by coming in on Saturdays, on a by appointment only basis.

"Free telephone calls are available to spouses of deployed personnel, those on extended temporary duty, or during relocation world wide," said Yunt "and calls are limited to 15 minutes per family."

"We also offer family members of deployed military and civilians, a place to gather, relax, network and find support from each other," said Yunt. "It is called the Yellow Ribbon Room and includes a sitting area, small children's play area, TV/VCR and a library of family related

resources," she stated.

Twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday, from 10 a.m. until noon, there is a coffee hour for spouses and families. "This is another opportunity for spouses who do not work and usually stay home to get out, meet others and have actual adult conversations," Yunt added. "This is especially helpful for those with small children," she added.

Another event the Yunt is excited about is the 'Hearts Apart' program which is geared towards elementary-age children with a deployed parent. Once a month, she and other volunteers go to the AFNORTH International School in Brunssum and spend a couple of hours with the children. "On our last visit we made Valentines for the kids to send to their parent who is away. Before we left, we gave each child a Beanie Baby Lion donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Ladies Auxiliary Outreach Program," Yunt said smiling.

There are many additional activities planned and sponsored by ACS and volunteer organizations. Some of these activities include: homecoming and reunion events, family nights sponsored by the Joint Forces Command (JFC) Theater, the International Club and ACS, as well as musical concerts, puppet shows and movie nights just to name a few.

The ACS Deployment and Mobilization Program offers a variety of other services. Yunt and other ACS staff members travel to the 254th BSB's Geographically Separated Units (GSUs) to help facilitate the organization's or spouses group's needs.

"We brief and train soldiers, family members, volunteers and family readiness groups," said Yunt. "We provide assistance

with family care plans and Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) screening," she added.

Keeping in mind that stress and emotional conflicts are often encountered when a spouse deploys, the ACS Deployment and Mobilization Program offers training and a variety of workshops to help cope with various circumstances that arise during all phases of deployment.

"Our workshops include a variety of topics such as Relationships at a Distance; Tips for Helping Children Cope with the Stress of Parent Deployment; Making Emotional Adjustment; Taking on Added Responsibilities and Financial Management During Deployment," Yunt continued. "The stress encountered is not just when the member leaves or while they are gone, but also upon their return. We offer training on how to prepare for the reunion and reunification tips for adjustment and counseling," she added.

Yunt stated that personal readiness is the responsibility of every Soldier and civilian prior to deployment and it takes time and effort to prepare loved ones for that deployment. ACS and Yunt are there to help in the pre-deployment, during-deployment, and post-deployment stages.

"The time and effort a soldier or civilian takes in preparing and ensuring that loved ones are ready for their deployment is rewarded by peace of mind. Planning ahead is the key to a successful deployment and we are here to help them prepare for each stage of that transition," Yunt concluded.

For more information on mobilization and readiness or to schedule training workshops contact Katrina Yunt at DSN 360-7218 or 0031 (0)46 443 7218 or via e-mail katrina.yunt@us.army.mil.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Joe Bloomquist

Mandy Ganssen, Dutch intern at AFNORTH Elementary School, and 'Hearts Apart' children gather together to say 'Thank You' for the Lion Beanies received from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary.

Tri-border News Notes

The 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office will send a copy of the Community Events Calendar and/or Tri-border News Notes directly to any customer who asks to be included in a 254th BSB update/news e-mail distribution list. To sign up, visit the 254th BSB Public Affairs Office or send an e-mail to lauri.garcia@benelux.army.mil include your name and DEROS and we'll be glad to e-mail this information directly to your work, home or both.

254th BSB Tri-border News

Fitness Corner

Stressing Stress

Part 2 of 3

By Rob Kent

Hello again everyone. In the first installment, I spoke to you about stress. Today I am going to discuss stress management.

As touched on in the first installment, the nature of stress is widely misunderstood and perceived in negative terms (Distress) as feelings of pressure, tension, anxiety and fear. Stress (eustress) can also be a positive force.

Remember that without some degree of stress, there could be no life.

The goal of stress management is to shift from viewing stress as always negative and debilitating. We have to view it as something that is inevitable and essential to growth.

There are three basic approaches to stress management or distress management as I like to call it, but a variety of management techniques.

Avoidance;

Alter;

Adaptation;

Avoidance is the option of reducing or eliminating exposure to a stressor, but not always attainable.



By altering one's perception of the stressor by consciously a belief or an attitude, it is possible to minimize the physiological response of the body to a stressor.

Adaptation involves learning to effectively cope with the stresses that cannot be avoided or altered.

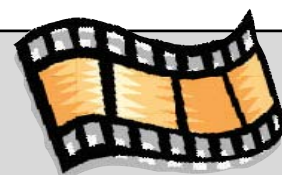
Once the stress response has been initiated, coping mechanisms need to be utilized to reduce the duration of the stress response and to return the body to a state of equilibrium as quickly as possible.

In installment III, I will discuss *"Reducing Stress through Exercise"*.

Information compiled by Rob Kent, Cooper Certified Physical Fitness Specialist, AFPA Certified Nutrition Consultant. DSN: 360-7561 or Email: rob.kent@benelux.army.mil.

Some information taken from the Cooper Institute's Master Fitness Specialist Course and Certification Manual.

AFNorth Alliance Theater



Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason.* Starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant. Rated R. Erstwhile London singleton Bridget Jones is still happily dating human-rights lawyer Mark Darcy. Bridget's love life gets complicated when her former boss and flame Daniel Cleaver arrives on the scene, having landed a job at Bridget's TV station.

Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m. *The Incredibles.* Animated. Rated PG. A dysfunctional family of famous superheroes, led by the retired and overweight Mr. Incredible is placed in a quiet suburb by the Witness Protection Program in order to protect them from their archenemy. But when the world is threatened, Mr. Incredible, his family and his friend Frozone must go back to work to save the planet.

8 p.m. *Alexander.* Starring Collin Farrell, Angelina Jolie. Rated R. By the age of 32, Alexander the Great has amassed the greatest empire the world had ever seen. His life was marked by a tumultuous relationship with his parents who would get him on the throne at any cost. Alexander also bonded with his closest companions. The film chronicles his

journey from his youth to his lonely and mysterious death as a ruler of a vast state of Macedonia.

Feb. 13, 1 p.m. *Ladder 49.* Rated PG-13.

Firefighter Jack Morrison has led an extraordinary career as a first responder. But the sacrifices he's made have taken their toll on Jack's relationship with his wife, kids and friends. Those decisions finally come back to haunt young Jack when he's trapped in a serious blaze. Jack takes a fall in the middle of a four-alarm. As he lays unconscious, Jack's cigar-chewing boss does his best to save the young men, and Jack's career is retold in flashbacks.

Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. *Blade: Trinity.* Starring Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel, Kris Kristofferson. Rated R. Realizing they may never be able to defeat the vampire hunter known as Blade the Dayhunter, the vampires set Blade up to appear like a psychopathic serial killer. The plan is successful. With the FBI on his tail, Blade's ability to hunt vampires is limited severely, even as they have awakened the granddaddy of them all, Dracula, a pure vampire with amazing abilities others do not possess. To take on the threat of this most powerful vampire, Blade accepts the help of a team of human vampire hunters called the Nightstalkers.

Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m. *Flight of the Phoenix.* Starring Dennis Quaid, Tyrese Gibson. Rated PG-13.

Captain Frank Towns, a pilot whose C-119 cargo plane full of oil workers could not withstand the violent winds of a desert sandstorm. Facing a brutal environment, dwindling resources, an attack by desert smugglers, they realize their only hope is to do the "impossible": Build a new plane from the wreckage.

8 p.m. *Ocean's Twelve.* Starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt. Rated PG-13. Danny Ocean and his crew, having successfully stolen \$160 million from Las Vegas casino's jet to Europe with three new heists planned. Meanwhile, casino owner Terry Benedict, whom Ocean and crew ripped off in Las Vegas, is hot on their tail, looking for revenge.

Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. *Spanglish.* Starring Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni. Rated PG-13. When the beautiful native Mexican woman Flor, the mother of a 12-year-old girl, becomes the housekeeper for an affluent Los Angeles family, cultures collide. Of all the horrifying pitfalls she worried about in this new culture, Flor had never fathomed the peril of being truly embraced by an upscale American family.

598th Transportation Terminal Group keeps them roll... roll... rolling along

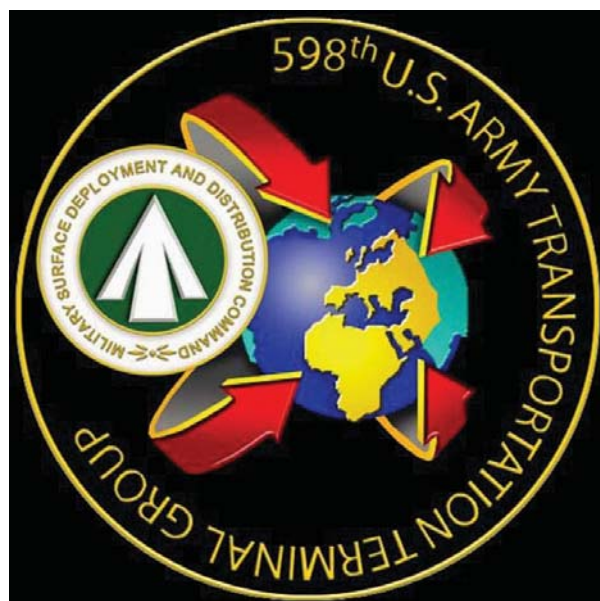
Submitted by the 254th BSB Public Affairs Office

The 598th Transportation Terminal Group (TTG,) Rotterdam, NL provided more than 50 percent of all Defense Transportation System (DTS) surface moves in FY 03 and FY 04 to support U.S. Europe Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) war fighters.

The TTG is responsible for pre-deployment planning, host nation liaison, cargo booking and documentation, container management and port security planning and coordination. Additionally, the group issues port call messages and is responsible for port opening and port management.

When cargo is received in port it is received staged and transhipped in port then deployed to other areas via rail, barge and highway.

The group's history of service in Europe began 60 years ago, June 1945, when the 17th Major Port Comm. and was established in Bremerhaven, GE. From 1947 through 1969,



the unit changed names two times before being designated as U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Group, Europe (USATTGE).

The USATTGE relocated to Rotterdam in 1970 and in 1976 the units name changed to the Military Traffic Management Command Transportation Terminal Group, Europe (MTMC-TTG-E). They retained the name until October 1997 when it was designated as the Military Traffic Management Command-598th Transportation Terminal Group MTMC-598th TTG.

The next change took place in Jan. 2004 when the organization name changed from MTMC to Service Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC).

Although the group has undergone several name changes and the mission may have changed somewhat over time, the 598th Transportation Terminal Group will continue to support and serve, in order to deliver and sustain, the combat power required by today's war fighter.



PHOTO: Junet Vasquez

Superbowl supporters The third touchdown by New England early in the fourth quarter of the Feb. 6 Superbowl prompted this reaction from fans at the Three Star Lounge in Brussels. Many fans in Europe stayed awake until late the next morning to see the Patriots defeat the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21.

Belgian host nation employees savor new benefit

By Rick Haverinen

Host nation employees of the U.S. military in Belgium have earned a benefit they can really savor.

Many Belgian national employees in the civilian sector have long had some employer support for lunch costs at work, and it's a legal way for the employer to pass along value to their employees without incurring a tax burden for either party.

"What the employer gives, is what (the employees) get in their pocket," said Jackie Peremans, of the Benelux Civilian Employment Assistance Center, "and in addition at the end of the year, it doesn't count for the tax. If you get a (cash performance) award, the taxation is between 50-60 percent out of the award. Here is money the employer gives you, and it is what you get in your pocket. So people love it."

The U.S. military in Belgium starts distributing printed lunch vouchers to host nation employees this month. The vouchers are worth six euro per day, and of this amount, the employer is contributing euro 4.91, with the employee paying the other euro 1.09. The employee's contribution eliminates their increased tax liability for receiving the benefit.

"Employees are eligible for one voucher per day that they expect to come to work," Peremans said. "If you don't come to work because you're sick, or you're on leave or

comp time or whatever, or it's a holiday, you don't get a new voucher. So if you look over a month, an employee who comes on a regular basis is entitled up to 20 vouchers per month. When you look at it for the employee, it's a net benefit of 20 times the euro 4.91. That's a significant income, because it's not taxable. So I think employees really appreciate it. SHAPE has had such a system for a long time. And the British Forces also have such a system. But it's a large majority of Belgians that have such a system."

The USAREUR Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, conducted a survey of Belgian workplaces and discovered the meal voucher benefit as a way to transfer increased value to employees while taking advantage of loopholes designed into the country's tax and social security regulations.

"The survey showed the meal vouchers are a prevailing practice in Belgium," Peremans said. "Ninety percent of Belgian companies have such a system, and the meals voucher system is a way to give a pay increase to your employees, but without having to pay taxation on it, and there is no social security to pay on top. So it's 47 percent savings over what would be a (standard) pay increase. If you want to give a monetary raise to your employees in Belgium, in order for them to get in their pockets a three percent increase, you would have to double the amount, and pay six percent. And you would have to pay social

security, and taxation contributions up to 40 percent. So (the meal voucher system) comes up to a 47 percent saving."

Peremans said her office computed the value of the benefit of the voucher program for the U.S. military over one year should result in a saving in excess of \$1 million against a straight cash pay raise of equal net value.

Peremans said the first meal vouchers will be distributed Feb. 22 from 18 locations: three at Brussels, seven at SHAPE, three at Daumerie Caserne, and five at Chièvres Air Base.

The vouchers can be redeemed at many grocery stores and restaurants that participate in the program.

Data from the same salary and benefit survey that resulted in the initiation of the voucher program, should also result in salary increases for some host nation employees sometime this summer. Of that group, most increases are likely to go to white collar employees, according to Peremans.

For more information, call Jackie Peremans at DSN 361-5325.



Peremans

Soldiers assist injured Belgian nationals at Lens accident scene

First responders to a life-saving crisis could be anyone.

Such was the case when Spec. Katrina Kupec, a military police officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 80th Area Support Group, found herself first on the scene of an early-morning accident Jan. 29 in Lens.



Kupec

"I was just coming on shift when the call came in at 5:55 a.m.," Kupec said of the shift change that Saturday morning. Within seven minutes, she found herself applying first aid to two Belgian citizens in a dirt bike accident on Hwy. N56, a main highway that runs through the small community a few kilometers south of Chièvres Air Base.

"I administered oxygen to the man, while

a nurse on the scene provided CPR to an injured woman," she said. Once the paramedics arrived, Kupec helped bandage the Belgian rider and put him in the ambulance. The female passenger on the moped-style motorcycle died.

Belgian authorities are responsible for investigating the accident.

"The man was wearing a helmet and the woman passenger was not," Kupec said.

Kupec said that was the third accident she has worked in the nearly two years she has been assigned to the 80th ASG.

Pfc. Steven Turbitt, another MP on patrol, responded to the scene 10 minutes later, followed by paramedics and ambulances from Mons and Ath.

Being a good samaritan in Belgium is the law. According to Northern Law Center attorney Marianne Schoonjan, Article 422 of the Belgian Code requires a person to stop and give help if an injured person is seen. If help cannot be provided directly, then other help must be actively sought.

DoDDS issues spring break advisory

Spring recess for most DoDDS-Europe schools is scheduled April 11-15. During that time, DoDDS-E will not sponsor, sanction, or authorize any school trips or vacation excursions for students. This is a matter of policy and not related to force protection concerns.

AFNorth International School breaks March 21-April 1. SHAPE American School breaks March 28-April 8. Brussels American School breaks April 8-17.

Each year, many tour companies offer trips to a variety of vacation spots. Some of these trips are marketed as senior trips to various locations. Some of the advertisements for these trips can be misleading to parents who think that the trips are sponsored and sanctioned by DoDDS. That is not the case. There may be legitimate trips offered by community agencies; however, they are in no way connected with DoDDS-Europe.

This is particularly true for seniors. There have been past incidents where groups of seniors have arranged trips with

tour companies during school breaks or at other times of year without any coordination with school. When they are marketed as "Spring Trip for seniors", parents mistakenly think the school is providing supervision. This is not the case. DoDDS-E does not offer trips for seniors to vacation spots at anytime. DoDDS-Europe does not sanction any senior skip days or any senior trips during instructional time. Any school-sponsored activity involving seniors will always be clearly communicated to parents by school officials. If a parent has not received official notice of an activity from school officials, they should question it carefully.

Parents are advised to carefully research any trips or activities in which students are participating at any time of year.

As a result of heightened force protection concerns throughout Europe, parents need to carefully heed advisories warning U.S. citizens traveling throughout Europe when planning vacations.

Many answers related to filing active duty tax returns can be found online

The 2004 Wage and Tax Statement (W-2 Form) is now available online on the "myPay" webpage at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to view, print or save. Prior year W-2 forms, dating back to 2000, are also available. Both active and reserve-component Soldiers who have access to myPay via a cus-

tomized PIN number will not receive a hardcopy W-2 in the mail. Soldiers should access their myPay account and print a copy of their W-2 for use in filing their calendar year 2004 tax return. There are two exceptions to this rule; Soldiers who elected to receive a hardcopy W-2 through the

myPay system prior to Dec. 4, 2004; or deployed Soldiers.

Soldiers who do not have a myPay PIN may request one by clicking on the "New PIN" button on the bottom left side of the myPay homepage front page. A new feature to myPay allows Soldiers to create a PIN for family

members to view pay information. The family member PIN will not allow family members to make any pay change transactions. For questions or to obtain a myPay PIN, Soldiers may call customer support in the States at 1 800 390-2348, or inquire at local finance offices.

Finance offices in Europe will have the ability to print duplicate W-2 forms for years 2000-2004 after Feb. 18. Requests can be made at local finance offices.

For information, contact Capt. Jeffrey Pray or Sgt. 1st Class Dean Lowery at DSN 379-6122 or 49 6202 806122.

SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

Gate 18 on Daumerie Caserne has been closed permanently. All vehicles now enter and exit through gate 17, which previously was an exit-only gate. Vehicles will be crossing a portable pop-up barrier at the access control point. Driving more than five m.p.h. over this barrier can result in vehicle damage. Info: Sgt. 1st Class William Santoro, DSN 361-6034.

New ACS class: “How to Become a Millionaire on Military Pay”, March 1, 9-11 a.m., ACS, Building 318, SHAPE. To sign up call DSN 423-4824.

Prime Time Lounge– *Take-out lunch*, stop by for a menu Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and call DSN 361-5540 to order; *PTL offers hot chicken wings, nachos, butterfly shrimp and pizza during bar hours*. Bar opens Wednesday-Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday at 7 p.m. *Friday Night Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m., with more than 3500 songs and lyrics and two great D.J.s guiding the evening.; *Country Night*, every second Saturday of the month, 8:30 p.m.

SHAPE Healthcare Facility Preventive Medicine programs - *Weight loss class*, first Wednesday each month, 10-11 a.m.; *Self Care Class* second Tuesday each month, 10-11 a.m.; *Tobacco Cessation Clinic*, every Monday and Wednesday, 3-4 p.m., at SHAPE Healthcare Facility Pharmacy; *Weight Loss Support Group*, every Friday, 9-9:30 a.m., at SHAPE Healthcare Facility, second floor, conference room; Every Wednesday, 9-9:30 a.m., at Chièvres Air Base Library; and every Thursday, 5-5:30 p.m., at SHAPE Building 342, behind AFN building. Info: DSN 423-5948.

Chièvres Fitness Center - New equipment and new opening hours: Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Yellow Ribbon Family, Feb. 15, 9-10 a.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m., ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE, DSN 423-4332.

Rendez-Vous with French class, Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Hotel Le Maisières, DSN 366-6252.

Business information online, Feb. 16, 12:30 p.m., at SHAPE Library. Info: DSN 423-4071.

Story Time is back at Chièvres Library, every Thursday afternoon, 4:30-5 p.m.

Entertainment Centre news - *SHAPE Players present: “The Food Chain”* by Nicky Silver, with permission from Dramatist’s Play Service, Feb. 23-27, 7:30 p.m., Tickets are Euro 8, adults over 17 only, rated R for adult themes and language. *New: Playwriting Class*,

every Thursday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at SHAPE Entertainment Center. Info and reservations: DSN 423-3312.

SHAPE Child and Youth Services - *Spring soccer registration*, through March 4. Sign up early, space limited, DSN 423-3874 or 423-5856; *Spring baseball and softball registration*, through March 11, DSN 423-3874; *Child and Youth Services needs volunteer coaches* for baseball, soccer, softball. Info: DSN 423-5856.

Arts and Crafts Centre - *Open House*, March 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Instructors display and explain classes, skills and crafts.

care to infants and children during their developmental years: Feb. 22-24, 4-6 p.m.; March 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Pet First Aid* program teaches pet owners effective actions that will safeguard the life of an injured pet: Feb. 18, 4-8 p.m.; March 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; March 18, 4-8 p.m. Info: DSN 423-4008.

Retirement services briefing is Feb. 23, 8:30 a.m.-noon, at SHAPE Entertainment Centre, Bldg. 207. If you have 15 years of military service or more and you’re planning on retiring, this briefing is for you. Covers health care, military benefits,

Email: st&t@benelux.army.mil.
BOSS has a Valentine’s Dance, Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m., at the IC Club on SHAPE. Info: DSN 361-5410.
SACEUR Sports schedule – *Volleyball*, Feb. 24, 9 a.m., Main gym; *Community-level basketball*, SHAPE vs. Mannheim, Feb. 19, Men, 1 p.m.; Women, 3 p.m. *Unit Level Basketball* – Playoffs, Feb. 15-17, 6 p.m.; 80th ASG Championships, Feb. 27, Coaches meeting 9 a.m., Game 1 9:30 a.m., Game 2 12:30 p.m., Championship game 3:30 p.m. *Rugby*: Women, Feb. 12, 2:30 p.m., SHAPE vs. La Huple; Men, Feb. 20, 1:30 p.m., SHAPE vs. Boitsfort 2.

International Indoor Soccer Tournament, March 5-6, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., SHAPE Main Gym. DSN 423-7654.

Sports program standings - *Unit Level Basketball*: Headhunters 9-0, USAN 7-3, SHF 5-4, NCSA Mons 5-4, The Airlift 4-6, 128th/39th Sig 2-7, Kessler Connection 1-9, *SACEUR Cross Country results*: 1st Place, USA, 10 points; 2nd Place, BFL 9 points; 3rd Place, DNTNPILLS, 8 points; 4th Place, UK, 7 points; 5th Place, GECZ, 6 points; 6th Place, IGCPSHBRES, 5 points. Male individual winners: Walem, BFL, 22:50, 1st place; Poitiaux, BFL, 23:30, 2nd place; O’Conner, US, 24:10, 3rd place. Women individual winners: Northshield, US, 29:28, 26th place; Edwards, US, 30:26, 34th place; Diagle, IGCPSHBRES, 31:15, 41st place.

SHAPE Main Gym - *Monthly Fun Run*: Feb. 22, signup 12:20 p.m., start 12:30 p.m., starts at main gym. *Mommy and Me Fitness*: Monday-Friday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Main Gym Fitness Suite, come join the fun, socialize and work out with other mothers. All children must remain in infant carriers. Our experienced staff is available for advice and guidance for starting and maintaining a training program. Info: Cpl Matthew Pitts, DSN 423-3945. *Fitness classes* - Mondays: Body Blast, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Spinning, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Power Cycling, 6-7 p.m.; Yoga Stretching, 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays: Yoga, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Spinning, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Pure Step, 5:50-7 p.m.; Water Aerobics, 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays: Yoga Flow, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Spinning, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Yoga Stretching, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Flexible Strength, 6-7 p.m. Thursdays: Yoga, 9-10 a.m.; Spinning, noon-1 p.m.; Step n Tone, 6-7 p.m.; Water Aerobics, 7-8 p.m. Fridays: Fit Ball, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Spinning, noon-1 p.m.; Circuit Training, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Some classes provided with charge. Different prerequisites apply. Call for info: DSN 423-3945.

Thinking of the many who perished

Christine Handley, a senior at SHAPE American High School, lights candles at a memorial service Jan. 31 at SHAPE Cinema to remember the tens of thousands of people who were killed Dec. 26 due to the earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean.




PHOTO: Rick Haverinen


Great opportunity to check out the classes available. Chance to visit the frame shop, wood shop and ceramic department. Bisque painting for children and free refreshments offered. *Children’s classes at the during spring recess*, March 28-April 8, with activities for children as young as 3 years. Info and schedule: DSN 423-4680.

Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders perform March 15, 7 p.m., at Community Activity Center, Chièvres Air Base. Info: DSN 361-5589.

Red Cross training - *CPR/FA classes* provides training in cardiac, choking and respiratory emergencies for adults, children and infants. Training also includes instruction in basic first aid: Feb. 15-16, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; March 8-9, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; March 22-23, 5:30-9:30 p.m. **Babysitter’s training** prepares teens for the responsibilities of providing basic


education, pay, transportation, and veterans’ benefits. Reservations and info: DSN 423-4575.

Job Opportunities brief is every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon, ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE. **SHAPE Trips and Tours**, Community Activity Centre, Building 307, SHAPE - *On sale now*, limited number of Euro Season Passes to Six Flags/Walibi at the special pre-season promotional price of Euro 48. Trips: Antwerp Diamond Museum and City Tour, Feb. 12; Amsterdam, Feb. 19; Birkenstock Factory and leather store, Feb. 26; Comedy Club, March 4; London, March 5; Thermae 2000, March 12; Ghent and Brugge, March 19; Horseback Riding in Chaleux, March 19; Horseback Riding in Cuesmes, March 20; Luxembourg Encore, March 25; Paris, March 26; Aqualibi, March 29; Spain, April 1-8. New hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: DSN: 423-3884, 065 44 3884, FAX: 065 84 5154,



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates							
Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Feb. 14	Feb. 25	March 14	March 25	April 11	April 22	May 9	May 20
Feb. 28	March 11	March 28	April 8	April 25	May 6	May 23	June 3

About Us



Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor-Heraut* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Meteor-Heraut, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the Meteor-Heraut.

Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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Ceremonies recall crash of Susan Ruth



PHOTOS: J.D. Hardesty

Adjutant-Chief Jean-Louis Magoche of the Belgian Army presents a flower wreath at the monument for 12 U.S. Soldiers killed Sept. 2, 1944 near Chimay, Belgium. Right of him is Yvonne LaHaye, who is 90, and whose husband was chief of a resistance network during World War II. At left is the U.S. Air Force honor guard: Airman 1st Class David Rogers, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Owen, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Fisher, and Tech. Sgt. Paul Lamb, all of 309th Airlift Squadron.

By J.D. Hardesty

Americans fighting the Third Reich for freedom and "La liberation de la Belgique" are still remembered in the heartland of its citizens.

Village residents, patriotic organizations and a Chièvres Air Base color guard remembered the sacrifices of the bomber crew Feb. 6, with a wreath-laying ceremony presented by Momignie's Mayor Albert Deprez.

"Since 1989, we have come several times per year to lay flowers in front of this small memorial which reminds us of the sacrifices of the five young U.S. airmen killed in 1944, Dr. Paul Delahaye, chairman of the Belgian-American Foundation said.

The "Susan Ruth" B-17 bomber, nicknamed for pilot's wife, was "hit by flak from anti-aircraft cannons, followed by FW-190 German fighters' 20mm rounds striking and exploding as they hit the aircraft," causing it to crash-land near the village of Macquenoise, Feb. 8, 1944. Capt. Howard Snyder remembers evading capture and fighting alongside Belgian and French resistance forces for the next

seven months. make it out of the plane. According to published reports, ball turret gunner Louis Colwart and radio operator Ross Kahler were killed in the plane by the fighter at



The design of the monument for the crew of the Susan Ruth includes a propeller blade.

Over the past 17 years, unfurled flags from dozens of Belgian patriotic organizations have formed a color guard in front of



The Susan Ruth crashed

a memorial honoring the gallantry of a B-17 bomber crew that crashed outside the village of Macquenoise, near Chimay.

Awards ceremony set in 80th ASG

Join in recognizing achievers in the 80th Area Support Group, Feb. 14, 2-4:30 p.m., in the auditorium, Building 30, on Daumerie Caserne in Chièvres.

seven months.

When the aircraft was hit, "pieces of equipment and parts of the ship were flying about striking my fee and legs," he explained. "When the oxygen cylinders exploded, the concussion stunned me for a few moments. As I looked around, in a half-dazed state, I became slowly conscious of the fact that the entire cockpit was filled with smoke and flames.

"As I left my seat, (George) Eike, the co-pilot, had just taken his chute pack from beneath his seat. I hesitated momentarily and switched on the autopilot," he said of his actions at the time. "I acted more on instinct. I held the emergency switch on and began calling through the interphone for the crew to jump.

"The fire was getting so hot; it was impossible to go back through the fire to see if (the crew) had jumped. As I crawled down to the escape hatch, I was surprised to see Robert Benniger (navigator) and Richard Daniels (bombardier) still in the nose. We went out through the nose hatch."

Not all of the 10-person crew would



The Susan Ruth and her crew during World War II

tack.

The rest of the crew had parachuted out of the burning aircraft at 20,000 feet. Daniels, left waist gunner Joseph Musial and top turret gunner Roy Holbert were captured. Musial's left leg had to be amputated and Daniels shattered arm treated before all three were sent to a prison camp.

Tail gunner William Slenker remained in hiding for seven months until fellow American forces liberated the area in September of 1944.

Snyder's co-pilot, Eike, evaded capture for three months, along with Benniger and right waist gunner John Pindroch. They were caught and executed in Saint-Remy with other air crews and Belgian resistance members by the Nazis in April.

Of the five who survived and returned to American soil, only Snyder still lives, as does his wife, Susan Ruth. "The pilot and his wife now live in a retirement home and like each year, he sends his greetings to all of you and his thanks for the gratitude and respect you show each year towards his crew," said Delahaye. "Snyder and the others were always moved by our duty of memory and respect we pay to their friends killed here."

The small monument to the Susan Ruth where the memorial ceremony was held has a propeller blade as part of its design.

The Susan Ruth airmen were not the only ones remembered on Feb. 6. French and Belgian men who also died during the World Wars were honored with a wreath-laying ceremony after religious services at the church of Macquenoise.

It was also near Chimay that Delahaye and the rest of the patriotic color guard honored the memory of the first Americans

killed during the liberation of Belgium. "We have the duty to honor the memory of the first 12 U.S. servicemen killed on Belgian soil," he said. "These young men came gloriously to give us back freedom. They didn't know they would meet their fate. We must honor their memory as well as the memory of millions of other heroes killed during the two terrible wars."

A memorial with 12 symbolic tombs honors the Soldiers from the 60th Infantry Reg., 9th Infantry Div., 7th Corps, 1st Army, who

forged their way across the French border eulogizes "the first heroes of the Liberation fell Sept. 2, 1944, 11:30 a.m."

Editor's note: An abridged personal account of Capt. Howard Snyder's story was published Feb. 1, 2000 in the Benelux Meteor. Excerpts from his personal account are included in this article.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Chièvres serves flavorful culture

African-American culture was shared most deliciously at a food tasting at the commissary on Chièvres Air Base Feb. 3. The menu featured three kinds of ribs, fried and roasted chicken, blackeyed peas, collard greens, cat fish, hush puppies, gumbo, yams, corn, baked beans, etc., etc. February is African-American History Month, and this event always is a favorite, for obvious reasons.